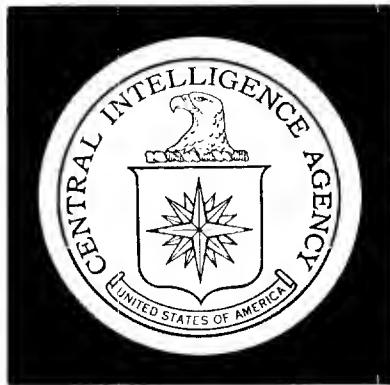


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USSR-Iran: Moscow is providing more military equipment to Iran.

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USSR-IRAN: MOSCOW IS PROVIDING MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO IRAN.

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UNDER A NEW CONTRACT MOSCOW WILL SELL A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MEDIUM ARTILLERY PIECES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PRIME MOVERS AND AMMUNITION. THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES ANTITANK ROCKET LAUNCHERS. THE EQUIPMENT IS ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH \$30 MILLION.

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MOSCOW CURRENTLY IS SUPPLYING GROUND FORCES EQUIPMENT UNDER EARLIER PACTS THAT CALL LARGELY FOR REPAYMENT IN NATURAL GAS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD AT LOW INTEREST RATES.

THE SOVIETS AGAIN OFFERED TO SELL IRAN MIG-21 JET FIGHTERS AND T-55 MEDIUM TANKS, BUT THE SHAH REITERATED TO A SENIOR US MILITARY OFFICIAL HIS STRONG DESIRE TO RELY ON THE US AS A SOURCE FOR SOPHISTI-CATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE IS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO PURSUE RAPID MODERNIZATION OF HIS ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PERSIAN GULF.

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